

LATEST GOSSIP OF NEW BOOKS AND WRITERS.

American Party Methods Arraigned by H. H. Lusk.

Thomas J. Vivian's Latest Novel—Publication of Tolstoi's Promised Book Postponed.

OUR FOES AT HOME. By H. H. Lusk. Doubleday & McClure Co.—"What is wanted is not a representative of the people, but a tool of the machine; it is not a man who commands the respect and confidence of the people by his character or his talents, but the one who can be most fully relied upon to go where he is bidden, vote as he is told, and gratefully accept the substantial rewards of his unscrupulous services to his party."

Such is the indictment of American party methods made by Mr. Lusk, who has lived for some years in New Zealand, and after a study of existing conditions in the United States hastens to suggest that if we adopted Australian methods of government, and not merely the name "Australian ballot," we should have a far more honest and popular government.

While some of his statements are exaggerated, it cannot be truthfully denied that party government really means government by the most cunning and generally the least scrupulous of those who make a trade of politics. One group of hungry politicians or the other indeed divides the plums; but the substantial profits, far beyond the profits of all the other ten times told, go in either case to the silent party of wealth, which finds the money and pulls the strings. With unsparring hand the author scores the party system as the root of all political evils, at the same time calling attention to the abuses of unjust taxation, the degradation of the system of land-holding, and the tremendous growth of trusts and kindred monopolies.

Pointing proudly to his experience in New Zealand, he shows that the people are better off, they have more real liberty, exert a direct influence upon legislation, and, because there are no primaries to be manipulated by party managers, the best men sit in the legislatures of Australia. Political preference is an honor eagerly sought there, and no man can use his office for private gain on pain of losing it. There is no boss and no political ring there because there are no spoils of office and no party funds to draw upon. The book is well written, closely reasoned, but popular in style—it will make every reader think and perhaps question the superiority of many of our existing political methods.

LUTHER STRONG; HIS WOOING AND MADNESS. By Thomas J. Vivian; R. F. Fernald & Co.

In his latest work Mr. Vivian gives us a tale redolent of life among the hills of Northeastern New York. It is a close study of the people—a realist's study, but the vision of a realist who sees through the prism of idealism. Nowadays when one says realism or idealism the reader expects merely a string of dialogues or impressions, without coherence or sequence; without an incident to stir the blood or set the nerves thrilling. Indeed "realism" or "idealism" has come to mean almost the opposite of dramatic power or invention.

Here is a book, however, which combines all these necessary characteristics of the very best successes of fiction. Luther Strong is dramatic to an intense degree. The characters stand out, and each one has a personality as sharply defined and clearly outlined as those in the old plays, when they were named for the virtues they were thought to possess, like Captain Absolute, Lydia Langrish and Mrs. Malaprop.

There are no such tricks of the trade in this novel. On the contrary, the people all speak for themselves. They are not cut out of cardboard and labelled.

The story, apart from the atmosphere of the country in which it takes place and the strong characterization of the people in it, moves rapidly from chapter to chapter and is brought to a close in a startling surprise, and with an almost melodramatic climax, while the very end takes place with the organ rolling in a far-off city, and with an apothegm, like this:

"And what about his dreams of 'scholarly rest' and 'semi-monastic quiet'?"

"Ah; only this—that they all flew out of the window with the woman's first kiss!"

GILIAN, THE DREAMER. His Youth, His Love and Adventure, by Neil Munro; Dodd, Mead & Co.—"Does it not look like a bit of the sky tumbled among the grasses? I sometimes think, to see it like that, that to fall into it would be to tangle with the stars." The little Scotch lad who could frame such a fancy was no ordinary boy. He was gifted with an imagination that approached closely to "second sight," and if he felt too deeply and saw too much he suffered for it.

The author of "John Splendid" has told a pretty story of an old Scotch feud, the love of a boy and girl, the hates and loves of men and women, and for those who like a quiet character study and the slow interplay of some lovable and some quaint characters this volume will prove pleasant reading. There are some spirited chapters, and at times the author wakes up and actually allows the story to progress, but these dashes of action are infrequent, not to say more.

There is some Gaelic for the "Kailyard" fads, and possibly the book will be a great success, but many readers will tire before they have read half of the book, and be lost in wonder over the question, "Why does it take so long for anything to happen?" It is mournful and slow—and if that is what you like, here's a good supply.

"LIGHT FROM THE EAST; THE TESTIMONY OF THE MONUMENTS." By the Rev. C. J. Ball, M. A. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

For the first time Mr. Ball has presented a most complete collection of the monuments of Egypt, Assyria and Palestine bearing upon the Bible. He has most carefully added to the excellent pictures all of the Biblical passages upon which these have the least bearing. The work must interest a great many persons, who would like to know precisely what the results are of all the excavations and explorations which have taken place, especially in the last fifty years. Any one, be he preacher or layman, who wishes to find the background of the Bible will look far before he finds so complete and thorough a work as "Light from the East."

"SOLOMON AND SOLOMONIC LITERATURE." By Monsieur D. Conway, Open Court Publishing Company.

In this volume the accomplished author gives the results of many years of study of Solomon and the literature attributed to him in the Bible. He compares many of the legends which have grown up

around his personality with those found in other lands, tracing the origin of some to extra-Semitic sources.

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs and later literature attributed to Solomon are all carefully examined with this conclusion: "From the first Solomon to the last the whole intellectual development in Judea, which I have called Solomonic, means the subjection of the conception of the divine nature and laws to the moral sentiment and the reason of man. It was no denial of invisible beings or of man's relation to the universe, but a demand that all definitions and conceptions should be approached through science, experience and wisdom."

"THE EVOLUTION OF GENERAL IDEAS." By Th. Ribot, translated by Frances A. Welby. Open Court Publishing Company.

In this work the great French philosopher and psychologist has made a special study of the development of the mind as it works in abstract and general ideas, and he shows that these operations exhibit a perfect evolution. One of his interesting chapters deals particularly with the origin of speech, that vexed question upon which so few thinkers have agreed. He discusses in turn the language of children and language in animals, and tries to account for the method by which we obtain our ideas or concepts of space, time, cause, law, species.

"AUTHORITY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, SACRED AND PROFANE." By S. R. Driver, F. L. Griffith, D. G. Hogarth, Charles Scribner's Sons.

In this single volume is contained a review of the remarkable work which has been accomplished in the nineteenth century by the spade of the scientific and learned excavators—in Palestine, Egypt, Assyria, Greece and Rome. As an authoritative and scholarly statement of the results of this work and its bearing upon the history and religions of mankind it must be of great value to every reader.

"IN CHIMNEY CORNERS." By Seamus MacManus. Doubleday, McClure & Co.

The young Irishman who came over to America about a year ago with his pockets stuffed with copy books in which he had written story after story of Irish life and Irish legend has achieved wonderful success in the United States. He has put on paper the rich brogue which he uses in daily speech, still being careful to leave his stories thoroughly intelligible, which cannot be said for all of the dialect writers. The success of this volume must be assured if the consensus of the editors of New York magazines counts for anything, for at least four of the leading monthly periodicals have been glad to print his contributions.

"THE BOYS' BOOK OF INVENTIONS." by Ray Stannard Baker. Doubleday & McClure Company.

Mr. Baker is a young man who has not forgotten his boyhood, and therefore writes well for boy readers. He has undertaken the important work of interesting young Americans in the great inventions of the day, and in his graphic pages he describes automobiles, tall buildings, submarine boats, scientific kites, Laugel's flying machine, wireless telegraphy, liquid air and the Roentgen rays. Some of these subjects may be a little difficult for the boy to grasp at first, but all will interest him, and, what is more, prepare his mind for the wonders of the world in which he will soon have to take his place.

"THE MARTYRS' IDYL, AND SHORTER POEMS." by Louise Imogen Guiney. Houghton, Mifflin & Company.

Miss Guiney's volume of verse is apt to disappoint many of her admirers. She is better at appreciation than creation. She responds to the touch of the poetic in others, but her poems are apt to fall below the standard. She has the feeling, but in some way or another the touch is missing. Perhaps it is because she does not see clearly or she feels too much and thinks too little.

"FISHERMEN'S LUCK." by Henry Van Dyke. Scribner's Sons & Co.

Those who like Dr. Van Dyke's deep sympathy with nature in her many moods will be delighted with this new collection of sketches from his pen. He loves nature as much for what he gives it as for what it gives him, and as a true student of all its beauties he brings his whole being, heart and mind to bear upon all that is spread out before him. Delicately illustrated, it helps those who have neither the time nor the opportunity, possibly not the taste, to feel for the heart of nature.

It is rather a striking thing that of five books announced by one New York firm, four are written by men of the West. There is Booth Tarkington, William Allen White, William E. Lighton and Edwin Markham, all of whom are the products of the sturdy spirit of the West. One of these is from California and the other three are from Kansas, Nebraska and Illinois. Can it be true that the East is too effete to produce such literature as is full of healthy vigor?

Mr. James McArthur, who has so long acted as one of the editors of the Bookman, has been persuaded by the Harpers to aid Mr. Page in the work of the new Harper-McClure encyclopedia. His place on the Bookman has been taken by Mr. Maurice, who has written so entertainingly on literary New York.

"Colossus; or, Diplomacy in Africa," by Morley Roberts, is one of the interesting works which is soon to be expected from the press of Harpers. They will also publish shortly a "Recky Sharp" edition of "Vanity Fair," with a number of illustrations; "To-morrow in Cuba," by Charles Pepper; "Historic Side Lights," by H. P. Arnold; and "Princess Xenia," by H. B. Marriott Watson, the strange novel which has been running in their magazine for some time past.

Swinburne is soon to publish, through Dodd, Mead & Co., a new tragedy entitled "Rosemund, Queen of the Lombards," which will be followed by a complete revised edition of his poetical works.

Those who have been waiting for Count Tolstoi's new novel, "Resurrection," will have to moderate their impatience, for the aged author has had to stop writing for a little while, and the publication is accordingly postponed.

Both Frank Leslie's and the National Magazines contain timely articles on

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Respectfully,
H. H. CARPENTER,
17 E. Canton Street, Boston, Mass.

SOVEREIGN REMEDY COMPANY:
Gentlemen—I have been a sufferer for years from kidney troubles; was confined to my bed for seven months; sharp pains across the small of my back; could get no relief from plasters, liniments or medicine taken internally; commenced taking your Sovereign Kidney Remedy two weeks ago; all pain has ceased, and I feel like a new man; my duties as a barber greatly aggravated my complaint, as I had to be on my feet all day long, and bending over my chair was agony to me. Your Sovereign Kidney Remedy certainly did wonders for me.
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EDWARD J. YATES,
844 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, Md.

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GEO. H. WAIN, JR.,
107 N. Poppleton St., Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE, Md., June 28, 1899.

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